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the World is Waking Up a series of letters written during his recent trip through Japan, Korea, Manchuria, China, the Philippines, and India, to the *World's Work*, the *Review of Reviews*, and his own paper, *The Progressive Farmer*.

Each letter comes directly from the country described and bears the imprint of the fresh and vigorous pen of a journalist trained to catch the color and action of a moving world for the hurried reader. Mr. Poe was reporting for these periodicals no mere sight-seeing trip. In each district he sought out men of high standing and political or commercial importance, and with them as a source of information, backed by careful study of census reports and other authoritative publications, and by close observation of temples, factories, schools, farms, and buildings, he wrote his account home. Blessed with a mind quick to take impressions and draw comparisons, Mr. Poe often jumps from a description of romantic and fascinating scenery to discussions, elementary indeed, and of necessity, of social and industrial problems. With real earnestness he appeals to young America to stand ready to act as guide to the enfeebled East as she awakens from her Rip Van Winkle sleep of centuries, and to accept from her, too, such valuable lessons as she has to give.

He writes with enthusiasm of that system in Japan which enrolls ninety-eight per cent. of the children between six and fourteen years in school for an annual term of ten months and for a compulsory term of eight years, of the co-operative credit societies in Japan and India which aid the sick, aged, or hard-pushed farmer and merchant; of the general thrift, especially of the farmer, who cultivates his small acreage so intensively and fertilizes so painstakingly that it is kept continuously producing without exhaustion; of the moral achievement of the Chinese in their brave fight against the vice of opium-smoking; and of other signs of progress too numerous to cite.

He sounds anew the warning of President McKinley as to the necessity of the continued integrity of the Chinese Republic. The natural resources of Manchuria are boundless, and if, through the indifference of the Powers, Japan be permitted much longer to violate with safety the terms of the treaty of Portsmouth, he feels sure a serious menace to commercial rights in Asia will arise in the form of Japanese aggression.

The morals which Mr. Poe draws for America may be summed up in the one word, "Conservation." Conservation of our natural resources, especially of the forests as a safeguard against the draughts and floods so destructive in China; conservation of our racial strength through improved methods of education and progressive labor legislation; conservation of commercial opportunities and industrial production; and, above all, conservation of the things of the spirit, which make for courage, discipline, and honor.

THE CHINESE AT HOME. By J. DYER BALL. New York: Fleming, Revell & Company, 1912.

Mr. J. Dyer Ball has well named his latest book *The Chinese at Home*. By right of an intimate acquaintance with the people through more than a score of years' experience in the English courts of justice of China, Mr. Ball has drawn faithful pictures of John Chinaman, not only in

the seven ages of man known to our Western world, but in that peculiarly Oriental eighth scene of the Chinaman who by death has been translated into an ancestor. With the greatest detail Mr. Ball introduces us to the Chinaman in sickness and in health, on land and afloat, indoors and out-of-doors, at work, at worship, and at play. He describes and interprets the meaning of his dress, his ceremonies, his laws, his many languages, and his religion. Yet the author has manipulated this really tremendous mass of material with a skill which makes his book delightful reading. The book is illustrated by good photographs and curious colored plates by Chinese artists that do their part to stimulate the imagination of the reader. Mr. Ball has a high opinion of the Chinaman as an individual. He considers him painstaking, persevering, long-suffering, and adaptable, an untiring toiler living in a civilization like that of the European Middle Ages. In fact, Mr. Ball considers the Chinaman a desirable figure in the industrial world despite of his different standards of morality and living and of his non-settling qualities. He regards the "Yellow Peril" as a distorted vision of what in the case of the Straits Settlement has been a golden blessing.

Mr. Ball has consistently avoided the introduction of too much Chinese history and economics in his book except as they bear upon the minds and habits of the people. This is fortunate, for since the writing of the book a tremendous change has swept over China, wiping out the old, tradition-bound Empire and creating a new and progressive Republic. As an exposition of Chinese character and life Mr. Ball's book must continue to hold a high place; whereas as history it already needs revision.